

PRESS STATEMENT FROM THE OFFICE OF SENATOR STROM THURMOND (D-SC)
ON TARIFF RESOLUTION INTRODUCTION, JULY 1, 1955.

Washington, July 1--With a majority of the Senate backing him, Senator Strom Thurmond (D-SC) has introduced a resolution in the U. S. Senate that would direct the Tariff Commission to begin an investigation of the effects of tariff cuts negotiated on textile products at the recent GATT Conference in Geneva.

The South Carolina Democrat offered the resolution with 48 other Senators joining him as co-sponsors. Together with his vote, this would give the Thurmond resolution a majority vote of the Senate. It would require only Senate passage.

This is the first time a resolution directing a tariff study has been introduced in the U. S. Senate. Thurmond said he offered it because of "my deep concern over the tariff cuts and their likely effects on the Textile industry and its employees."

In his Senate speech, Thurmond pointed out that the tariff reductions at Geneva were made possible under the old trade law and not the new one passed this year. Earlier, Thurmond led 16 co-sponsors in writing amendments to the new law which makes it impossible to further reduce duties on items cut by more than 15 per cent at Geneva. Some textile products were cut by as high as 28 to 48 per cent of their old rates.

Thurmond has also written a letter to President Eisenhower concerning the "drastic" cuts, asking that he also order a commission study into the possible effects on the textile industry.

The commission is required to make a report to the President, upon completion of such a study. The President then can adjust quotas, increase duties, or make other adjustments necessary to afford adequate protection to the affected industry.

Thurmond told the Senate Friday:

"I do not believe we should wait until actual damage is done our great textile industry before we take steps to prevent such damage. If serious damage or the threat of serious damage is found by the commission, time will have been saved by the passage of this resolution. That time could well mean the difference between continued operation and curtailment of many of our textile plants."